



**Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Southern District of Texas**

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**CONVICTED FELON TO SERVE 20+ YEARS IN PRISON
FOR FIREARMS CONVICTION**

BROWNSVILLE, TX – Jose Casas, Jr., 48, of Brownsville, Texas, convicted of being a felon in possession of a firearm, was sentenced to 262 months in federal prison without parole, United States Attorney Don DeGabrielle announced today.

United States District Judge Andrew Hanen, who convicted Casas following a bench trial held in May 2006, imposed the 20+ year sentence after finding that Casas was convicted 10 times between 1995 and 2004 for a variety of offenses, which include possession of marijuana, and burglary of vehicle, a building and a habitation.

Casas was arrested on September 30, 2005, at his residence on E. Fronton Street in Brownsville by detectives of the Brownsville Police Department after they found a .44 caliber revolver hidden under a dresser in the bedroom, which Casas admitted owning.

At trial, agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives testified Casas was previously convicted of the state felony offenses of burglary of a building in 1985, delivery of marihuana in 1987 and burglary of a habitation in 1991. Casas' last felony conviction resulted in his being sentenced to serve 25 years in state prison in 1991. He served 12 years in a state prison before being release on parole. At the time of his arrest, Casas was on parole for a state burglary conviction. As a convicted felon, Casas is prohibited by federal law from possessing a firearm.

Casas' prosecution is part of the Department of Justice's nation wide gun violence reduction initiative called "Project Safe Neighborhood," or PSN. PSN partners federal, state and local law enforcement in a cooperative effort to target for federal prosecution felons who possess firearms or ammunition in violation of federal law and through investigation, prosecution and incarceration to remove the violent offender and promote safer neighborhoods.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Oscar Ponce.

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